

NOTEWORTHY GRASSES FROM MEXICO IV<sup>1</sup>

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For previous papers see *Phytologia* 27 (6):441-444, Jan. 1974;  
*Phytologia* 28(4):313-318, Aug. 1974; *Phytologia* 30(5):344-348,  
March 1975.

ARISTIDA FLORIDANA (Chapman) Vasey

This species was recognized as distinct from *Aristida ternipes* Cav. by Henrard, J. 1926. A critical revision of the genus *Aristida*. Mededeelingen Van's Rijks Herbarium No. 54, Vol. I. Subsequently, it was accepted for Florida (apparently the type locality) but was said to be known only from Key West. Plants which fit the description of this species from Florida are common in the states of Yucatan, Campeche and Quintana Roo in Mexico. These plants occupy the same habitat as *A. ternipes* but mature earlier and are easily recognized in the field as distinct. This is, apparently, the first recognition that *A. floridana* is a Mexican grass. Campeche: between Chencolly and Tenabo, Beetle M - 4202, Isla del Carmen, Beetle M - 4177; Quintana Roo: Cosumel Island, Beetle M - 4248; Yucatan: Merida, Beetle M - 795, Izamal, Beetle M - 806, Chichen-Itza, Beetle M - 888.

PANICUM DECOLORANS HBK

*Panicum decolorans* HBK (1815) and *P. parcum* Hitchcock and Chase (1910) are synonymous. The best case for separation has been made by Hitchcock in *North American Flora* 17(3):220-221. Here *P. decolorans* is described as branching from the base, ligule hardly 1 mm. long, blades 7 - 10 mm. wide, 8 - 14 cm. long, the spikelets 4.5 - 5.2 mm. long approximate on short pedicels. On the other hand *P. parcum* Hitchc. is sparingly branched from the middle or upper nodes, the ligule is 1 - 2 mm. long, the blades 2 - 6 mm. wide, 10 - 30 cm. long, the spikelets ca. 6 mm. long, rather long-pedicelled on flexuous branches. None of these characters have been found to show any consistency. Gould (1966. *Canadian Jour. Bot.* 44:1683) has reported the chromosome number for each as  $2n$  equals 36. *Panicum parcum* Hitchcock and Chase should be treated as a synonym of *P. decolorans* HBK. This grass has been reported from the Mexican states of Sinaloa, San Luis Potosi, Colima, Queretaro, Michoacan, Guerrero, Puebla, Oaxaca and Chiapas.

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<sup>1</sup>Published with approval of the director, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station as Journal Article No. 895.

Paspalum guayanerum sp. nov.

The subgenus *Ceresia* (Pers.) Reichenb (Consp. Veg. 49. 1828) is characterized by Chase (Contrib. U. S. National Herbarium 28:15. 1929) as "erect or clambering perennials; blades firm, narrow, racemes 1 to several; rachis membranaceous, mostly broadly winged \*\*\*\* to nearly wingless \*\*\*\*; spikelets clothed with long silky hairs or conspicuously fringed with long hairs; fruit pale. Plants of upland savannas."

A new species somewhat allied to this subgenus but differing sharply both in being annual and in having glabrous spikelets has been discovered in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico: Paspalum guayanerum.

Annual, culms branched at base, up to 4 dm. tall; sheaths split nearly to the base, hirsute with long white hairs; blades 1 - 2 dm. long, flat, 2 - 3 mm. wide, variably hirsute; ligule 1 - 15 mm. long, membranaceous; inflorescence of 2 - 9 racemes, exserted, the rachis foliaceous, 5 - 8 mm. long, recurved 0.5 mm. broad, densely hirsute below, the margins conspicuously fimbriate with long white hairs; spikelets in a single row, ca. 1 mm. long, glabrous, plano-convex, brown at maturity.

Gramen annuum, caespitosum; culmi erecti, simplices, usque ad 4 dm. alti; vaginae scissurae prope ad basae, pilosae; foliorum laminae lineares, usque ad 2 dm. longae, 2 - 3 mm. latae, pilosae; ligule membranaceae, 1 - 1.5 mm. longae; spicae 2 - 9, 5 - 8 mm. longae, 0.5 mm. latae, hirsutae; spiculae planoconvexae, ca. 1 mm. longae; gluma glabra, lemma glabra. Type collection: Mexico, state of Sinaloa, between Mazatlan and Durango, rocky cliff face near La Guayanera, January 6, 1975, A. A. Beetle M - 3669. Also collected near La Capilla del Taxte, Sinaloa, Mexico, January 6, 1975, A. A. Beetle M - 3690.

Mesosetum

Of 37 species described, mostly by Swallen (Brittonia 2:363-392. 1932), for Mesosetum, twenty-nine occur in northern Brazil. Three (M. blaki, M. filifolium and M. stoloniferum) have been reported for Guatemala (Swallen, 1955, Grasses of Guatemala, Fieldiana vol. 24). Only one species, an annual, M. pittieri, has been reported for Mexico. Now a perennial species needs to be reported:

Mesosetum tabascoense sp. nov.

Perenne; culmi caespitosi, erecti, glabri, nodis pubescentibus; vaginae quam internodia multo longiores glabrae, ligula membranacea 0.2 - 0.3 mm. longa, ciliata; nodis pubescentibus; racemus 5 - 10 cm. longus, spiculae 4 - 5 mm. longae, ascendentes; gluma prima 4 mm. longa; gluma secunda 4 mm. longa, ad apicem hispida.

Tufted perennial in large clumps, blades flat, up to 4 mm. broad, sheaths shorter than the internodes; sheaths, blades and culms glabrous except for a short (0.3 mm. long) membranaceous ligule fringed with hairs at the collar; nodes conspicuously white-hairy. Racemes solitary, 5 - 10 cm. long, inconspicuously hairy, the glumes and sterile lemma nearly equal, the hairs on the upper part of the second glume much longer than the others, forming a prominent tuft (Section *Penicillata* Swallen); spikelets 4 - 5 mm. long, the first glume 4 mm. long, sparingly pilose, usually a tuft at the base, the tip blunt; second glume 4 mm. long, hairy over the entire back, the hairs at the middle much longer than the rest, spreading; sterile lemma 3.5 mm. long, the fruit shorter than the lemma, glabrous. Type: Mexico, state of Tabasco, Rancho Estrella Blanca, Huimanguilla, grasslands on laterite soils; April 27, 1971, R. Almeida 10.80.

### Elyonurus

The identification of Elyonurus barbiculmis Hack. by the use of most keys is very difficult. If reliance is based on such key characters as (1) first glume of the sessile floret toothed or acuminate, (2) hairy or glabrous below the nodes, (3) hairy or glabrous below the inflorescence, (4) bases bulbous or not bulbous, for the separation of E. barbiculmis and E. tripsacoides it is surprising they have not been combined. Roberty, G (1960) in his "Monographie systématique de Andropogonées du globe" (Boissiera 9:1-455) has separated the two species into different sections as follows:

Margins of the glume of the lower fertile floret abruptly  
"pectinées-ciliées"

#Elyonurus - one species E. tripsacoides with geographical varieties in both the New World and the Old World.

Margins of the glume of the lower fertile floret "longuement  
ciliées-velues"

#Lecurus - one species E. candidus with geographical varieties in both the New World and the Old World.

These key characters seem to work with the exception that Elyonurus muticus (Spreng.) O. Ktze, Rev. Gen. Plant 3(2):350. 1898, based on Lycurus muticus Sprengel, Syst. Veget. 4(2) Curae Posteriores 32. 1827, is a valid name of earlier date than E. candidus (Trin.) Hack. based on Andropogon candidus Trin. (1832). To bring E. barbinodis into line with this treatment the following combination becomes necessary:

Elyonurus muticus (Spreng.) O. Ktze, var. barbiculmis (Hack.) comb. nov.  
Elyonurus barbiculmis Hack. in DC. Monogr. Phan. 6:339. 1889.